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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/765,752	01/27/2004	Zenya Nagashima	075834.00450	1915
33448	7590	06/12/2007		
ROBERT J. DEPKE LEWIS T. STEADMAN ROCKEY, DEPKE, LYONS AND KITZINGER, LLC SUITE 5450 SEARS TOWER CHICAGO, IL 60606-6306			EXAMINER PENG, CHARLIE YU	
			ART UNIT 2883	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 06/12/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/765,752

Applicant(s)

NAGASHIMA, ZENYA

Examiner

Charlie Peng

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 October 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 October 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, filed 23 March 2007, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 12-19 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made. Please refer to 35 USC 103(a) below for details.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. There lacks proper support in the original disclosure for negative limitations claiming there is no light-blocking or opaque material between the light emitting element and the photoreceptor element. In fact, the drawings (Fig. 3 in particular) appear to teach otherwise as a submount 6 is located between the two elements, and the original disclosure does not specify the submount to be made of transparent, translucent or non-opaque material. (See MPEP 2173.05(i))

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 12-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,205,274 to Zhou in view of U.S. Patent 4,540,237 to Winzer, and claim 28 is rejected over Zhou. Zhou teaches an optical device having an optical fiber **101** having an inclined end face at one end, wherein the end face is has a reflective coating **105**,

a light source **102** located radially from the center of the optical fiber **101** to emit light and faces the reflective coating **105**,

a light detector **118** places along an optical axis of the optical fiber **101** and adjacent to the one end of the optical fiber **101**. (See at least Fig. 7A and description) Zhou is silent on how light diffuses from the light source **102**, but it is clear, particularly in the embodiment cited here (illustrated by Fig. 7), "most of the light from light source **102** is reflected into fiber **101** and transmitted to a remote receiver. Some (rest) of the light, however, is transmitted through the coating **105** and medium **104** to a power monitor **103**" acting as part of a feedback control loop for the light source **102**. The light detector **118** receives optical signals not deflected by the coating **105** from a remote optical transmitter. That is, light emitted by the light source **102** does not reach the light detector **118** in this embodiment, as the light detector **118** is only designed to receive optical signals from the remote transmitter along the optical fiber **101**, while signals

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emitted by the light source 102 is either reflected to the optical fiber 101 by the coating 105 or redirected to the power monitor 103. Since the light detector 118 needs to be placed outside the maximum transmission range of the light source 102 for this invention to function properly and as designed, it would have been immediately obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to ensure so in order to prevent cross-talking.

Zhou is silent on the end face of the optical fiber having a non-angled portion.

Winzer teaches a coupling component comprising

a first fiber f_s having an angled surface A_a coated with a reflective layer R and a non-angled surface A_n ,

a second fiber f_e sharing and communicate through the non-angled surface A_n with the first fiber,

a third fiber f_a serving as an out-coupling fiber for coupling light out of the first optical fiber f_s .

Since both the Zhou reference and the Winzer reference are of analogous art placing optical elements outside to light transmission path of the optical fibers and communicating with the optical fibers via a angled and reflective end surface, the purpose of using the teaching of the Winzer reference would be recognized as relevant prior art to Zhou's invention. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to build a housing, preferably opaque, as suggested by the usage of the multi-end-faced fiber by Winzer. The motivation would be to reduces or eliminate interference by light signal coming directly from the source, as the detector would only receive light signal from the optical fiber as intended.

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Further, one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize the advantage of having a non-angled portion of the end surface as it permits the fiber to abut and align a flat surface more readily and easily.

The prism **104** is a light-redirecting optical element, and is neither opaque nor light-blocking.

With reference to claims 13 and 17, core diameter of the fiber f_s is d_s , and core area is indicated as that inside the dashed line.

With reference to claims 14 and 18, Zhou teaches that the detector **118** can also be placed so that a normal line to its light receiving plane is perpendicular to an optical axis of the optical fiber **101** and the light source **102** is facing the inclined end face.

With reference to claims 15 and 19, only the angled surface A_a is coated with the reflective film **R**.

With specific reference to claims 24 and 25, though Winzer uses the third fiber f_a , Zhou has already taught optical fibers are not needed for light transmission between the angled surface and various optical elements surrounding the prism **104** for the sake of minimizing the fiber optic header. Furthermore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to simply eliminate an unnecessary component, since it has been held that omission of an element and thereby eliminating its function is an obvious expedient that involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Kuhle*, 188 USPQ 7.

With specific reference to claims 26 and 27, Zhou as modified by Winzer has its core substantially bisected by the angled portion at the surface A_a .

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charlie Peng whose telephone number is (571) 272-2177. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 am - 6 pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank Font can be reached on (571) 272-2415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/ Charlie Peng /
Charlie Peng
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